

SIKA-EAST WEEKLY PROGRAM UPDATE

No. 43

A Service Provider Fair (SPF) is planned for November 2012 in Wardak. In preparation for the SPF, the SIKA-East team conducted several meetings with governmental and non-governmental service providers to seek their support and interest to participate in the SPF.

The SIKA-East team developed the resource information sharing training facilitator guide and integrated it into the six-day stability planning workshop. This document will guide the facilitators and trainers to practice the activities during the session in the best way.

SIKA-East continued data collection for the district profiles for Mohammad Agha, Zurmat and Andar Districts. A menu of advocacy/communication trainings was developed to incorporate into the larger district project idea packages as part of interventions SIKA-East may offer District Entities (DEs).

SIKA-East outlined the governance foundation for stabilization training to assist District Development Assemblies (DDAs) and District Community Councils (DCCs) in managing stabilization and SIKA-East programming. The session will consist of district presentations of strengths, challenges, building on existing institutional infrastructure, roles and responsibilities, committee structures, simple operating systems and SIKA-East tools.

The SIKA-East engineers are developing a curriculum for project concept development and infrastructure planning introduction sessions, with major topics including understanding National Solidarity Program (NSP) plans and specifications, field measurement, estimation, NSP bill of quantities, and SIKA-East/NSP environmental compliance. This training will be integrated into the district stability planning process and will inform DDA/DCC+ development of the District Project Portfolio (DPP), improving the DE understanding of project feasibility and launching initial data collection.

SIKA-East outlined a curriculum for preparing for DPP implementation training to assist DDA/DCC+ and other DE to transition from idea to action, preparing priority initiatives for implementation. Participants will cross-check the portfolio against other local strategic plans, prioritize the first batch of projects for implementation and screen potential SIKA-East grant activities and grantees for eligibility.

SIKA-East worked to modify district stability process curriculum which will be implemented in the new SIKA-East target districts. The process will consist of all pieces necessary to develop capacity of District Entities (DE) and Hawza leaders to identify key drivers of local instability and design, manage and implement strategic stabilization programming.

DPP analysis and training development continued this week. This effort included classifying project ideas and discussing potential grant instruments for those activities where a grant is likely.

Grants training was completed this week for newly hired staff from Chak and Baraki Barak Districts. During the three-day training, topics such as grants cycle, the role of SIKA staff and stakeholders, grant application, USAID rules and

regulation, grants criteria, grantee handbook, procurement, finance, practical work on grant application, personnel policy and reporting modules were discussed.

The post-training evaluation report for the SIKA Induction College, which was held last week for newly hired field and Kabul based staff, has been finalized and shared with all department directors for further improvement in the future.

SIKA-East team developed the district stabilization planning process training curriculum and agenda and submitted these to management for approval. At the same time the plan and specification training outline and trainees reading materials have been drafted and shared with the SIKA-East Engineering Support Group (ESG) Manager for input and comments.

In order to create a systematic reporting system, SIKA-East is in the process of outlining a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for reporting.

SIKA-East received the final Focus Group (FG) district mapping for six districts from Rahman Safi Impact Consultancy (RSI) for revision and approval. District mapping and participant selection has been completed for all nine targeted districts and actual field work has been started. RSI has completed data collection for six FG in Baraki Barak, Saydabad and Deh-Yak Districts.

Human Resources (HR) filled one position for International Relief and Development (IRD) during the week.

FIELD ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Ghazni:

- The Ghazni Provincial Management Unit (PMU) Manager conducted the regular weekly coordination meeting with the Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) Director. The manager explained the roll-out plan for the Deh Yak District and it was decided that SIKA-East should prepare the list of roll-out participants in coordination with PRRD.
- Ghazni SPC update was completed this week. The update was shared with the USAID Deputy Field Program Officer (DFPO) for review.
- The PMU Manager met the provincial council members regarding the gender mainstreaming process in the province.

Logar:

- The Logar PMU Manager met with the PRRD Director and updated him on program activities across the province. The parties shared ideas for better implementation of the program.
- Logar Capacity Building Officers met with provincial council members regarding the gender mainstreaming process in the province.

Paktya:

- The Zadran team met the newly employed Paktya Police Commander. The team provided information about SIKA-East and obtained full support of the commander for the program implementation.
- Logar PMU met with the Water Management Department (WMD) Director of Gardez to coordinate the program. The WMD was informed that SIKA-East will be implementing the program based on the NSP technical manual and standards. The director supports the idea.
- The Paktya Capacity Building and Training Officer attended a one day workshop on how to stop violence against women in Paktya. The workshop was organized by the Paktya Human Rights Commission.

Wardak:

- The Wardak PMU Manager and Communication and Outreach Officer participated in the PRRD coordination meeting with its key stakeholders. Additionally, the Wardak team had various meetings with service providers to coordinate the SPF.

NEXT WEEK KEY ACTIVITIES PROJECTION

- Follow up on SPF coordination with government entities in provinces and Kabul;
- Complete SPC updating in Ghazni province;
- Finalize Mohammad Agha and Saydabad district profiles;
- Share the *hawza* level communication survey report with interested parties;
- Continue collaborative meetings with International Rescue Committee (IRC) and NSP Engineering Department, regarding capacity development, engineering and community development effort;
- Develop and initiate various Training of Trainers (ToT) training sessions;
- Continue DPP analysis working towards strategic grant packaging and application process;
- Conduct general grant training for GRC members;
- Continue developing new training modules for various grant specific applications including grant application completion, estimating and NSP bill of quantity, field measurement and environmental compliance;
- Establish a SoP for the coding system to track expenditures and collect data for ***Trainet*** and ***Afghan Info***; and
- HR Department will continue recruitment of 57 staff:
 - 37 vacancies in process with AECOM;
 - Eight vacancies in process with OSC; and
 - Twelve vacancies in process with IRD.

NEXT WEEK PROJECTED FIELD ACTIVITIES

Ghazni:

- Prepare the list of participants for Deh Yak roll-out; and
- Arrange meeting with the Ghazni PRRD Director.

Logar:

- Update Baraki Barak District, CDC and DDA profile.

Paktya:

- Conduct a coordination meeting with PRRD and other stakeholders; and
- Conduct a coordination meeting with the Health Net office.

Wardak:

- Collect data for SPC;
- Collect a list of CDC members for coordination purposes for the MRRD to select the CDC member;
- Conduct coordination meeting with the PRRD; and
- Coordinate and facilitate the Nerkh district roll-out.